

Benefits of Reading to Your Young Child

Notes for Parents of Preschool Age Children Attending Hongwanji Mission School

Prepared by: Adah Askew

School Counselor

- Reading aloud with your preschool age child develops closeness between parent and child and creates memorable experiences for both. Reading a story at bedtime is a perfect way to end the day and makes going to bed fun, and a special bonding time between parent and child
- Preschool age children are receptive to learning and reading aloud with them is a time when unexpected real teaching occurs in its best form. This is a perfect time to teach left to right tracking, hand eye coordination and other reading readiness skills that will prepare your preschool age child for Kindergarten
- Preschool reading alphabet activities introduces preschoolers to sound recognition as they focus on the image that represents the sound. This shows them that words and pictures connect
- Preschool age children can be taken on an adventure through reading a book with them
- Studies show that reading out loud to children is one of the most significance activities we can do with them. Statistics confirm the importance of providing a good reading foundation for preschool aged children. Try spending at least 30 minutes a day reading aloud with your child. Reading regularly to preschoolers has positive long-term effects physically, emotionally, socially and cognitively.

Regular visits to the library with your preschoolers will provide them with an unforgettable experience. This will give them an opportunity to browse through picture books at their leisure. Try to pick a time for your visit to the library when it is relatively empty so that they have an opportunity to chat with the librarian.

***My daughter, Dr. Jill Bargonetti-Chavarria, a college professor of Molecular Biology and a cancer research scientist, will on occasion relate the memory of her first Library experience to her college students. Jill tells them how she was taken to New York Public Library for the first time by me when she was just three years old. Her fond memories of that experience encouraged her to introduce her two sons, my grandsons, Carlo and Miles, to the Library at an early age. The boys are now 17 and 11 years old and are avid readers. At this point in their lives, whenever they are asked by family members what they would like as gifts, books are always included on their list. Books are their treasures, and reading is a joy for them.

HONGWANJI MISSION SCHOOL LIBRARY

*****The following information has been prepared for parents by Mrs. Lori Okamura, our Librarian at Hongwanji Mission School. It is an excerpt from her webpage, classjump.com/hmslibrary.**

“Our three-year-old classes in P-21 and P-22 enjoy listening to stories and participating in lively discussions when they visit the Library every Monday. They are attentive and engaged in the stories and always ask for ‘just one more’.

Our four-year-old Preschool classes visit our Library every Wednesday to enhance the Language Arts program of P-4 and P-5. Once a month, students are shown how to borrow a book to share with classmates in their classroom. They enjoy selecting their own book and demonstrate the start of good library habits by handling books carefully and turning pages properly.

Each week, twenty-minute Library visits introduce our little ones to the world of books and libraries. Library lessons include both fiction and nonfiction books that are connected to classroom lessons or holiday themes as an extension of classroom learning. Favorite authors and illustrators of books for young children are introduced throughout the year.

Story time is fun and interactive as our preschoolers become a part of the lesson through discussion and questions. Movement is used to act out various parts of the story to keep their interest and to develop attention to detail. Basic reading skills such as identifying characters, predicting what will happen next and recognizing rhyming words start at preschool and become a foundation for future reading.

Each classroom has a selection of library books and DVDs to use in their classrooms that rotate between the classes through the year. Teachers also borrow books to read to their students in class.

Four-year-olds have a library card on file and all preschoolers are welcome to borrow books with their families every Tuesday for one-week borrowing periods. Enjoy the convenience of our great selection of books. Family Library Time is from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Ask your child about their library visits and encourage discussion about books as you read to them. Very young children are able to point out details in the pictures of a book such as shapes, colors characters in the story or counting how many of something on each page that develops their curiosity and involvement.”

“Read together every day!”